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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Eric ADRIAENSSENS et al.

Group Art Unit: 1642

Application No.: 10/530,568

Examiner: M. HALVORSON

Filed: April 7, 2005

Docket No.: 123439

For: METHOD FOR NGF ASSAY FOR IN VITRO DIAGNOSIS OF BREAST CANCER  
AND THERAPEUTIC USE

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

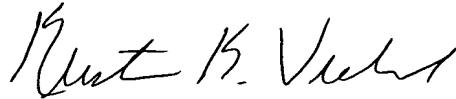
In reply to the November 21, 2006 Restriction/Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-11 and 16, and the species early diagnosis, all with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-22 and all species in claim 16 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 (stating that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added)). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge  
Registration No. 30,024

Kristin K. Vidovich  
Registration No. 41,448

WPB:KKV/kxs

Date: December 6, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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